

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Percent of Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes That are Alcohol Related
Justification	Approximately 2.2 million crashes in the U.S. involved alcohol in 1999. Approximately 41 percent of traffic fatalities are the result of drinking and driving. Almost 17,000 people die from alcohol-related crashes each year. Alcohol-related traffic crashes remain the single greatest cause of death among youth and young adults.
Definition	Percent of fatal motor vehicle crashes (i.e., in which at least one person died) for which at least one driver, pedestrian, or cyclist had been drinking (Blood Alcohol Concentration >0.00)
Numerator	Annual number of fatal crashes involving alcohol
Denominator	Annual number of fatal crashes
Data Sources	Crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation, (numerator and denominator)
Frequency	Annual
Geographic Levels	National, State, and County
Demographic Categories	NA
Strengths	Data on fatal traffic crashes have been systematically collected by NHTSA for many years in every state (though states vary in the number of years in which they have participated in FARS).
Limitations	While considerable effort has been made to obtain the BAC values for all drivers involved in fatal crashes, these data are not complete. Therefore, NHTSA has estimated driver BAC for cases missing data. The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these fatal crashes occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and counties that have low numbers of annual fatal crashes.